

**San Francisco Board of Supervisors Land Use and Transportation Committee Meeting
May 14, 2018, 1:30 pm, USEPA Presentation**

FINAL, May 12, 2018

INTRODUCTION

- Supervisor Cohen, Chairperson Tang, Vice-Chairperson Kim, Supervisors, thank you for this opportunity to present at your Committee Meeting. I am the Director of the Superfund Division at the US Environmental Protection Agency's Regional office here in San Francisco. I apologize that my time is limited today, as I have a flight to catch. I will be able to stay until 3:30 pm.
- You have already heard from the Navy, who is the lead on the cleanup at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Superfund Site. Since 1983, my agency, together with the State of California environmental agencies, have overseen the cleanup to ensure that it is done in a manner that follows the national Superfund laws and other laws that protect public health and the environment. We take this mission very seriously.
- For the entire site, over the past decades, we and the State have been monitoring radiological conditions on an ongoing basis to ensure the safety of the surrounding community. For example, we have been reviewing radiological data collected by a variety of contractors from air monitors (both upwind and downwind), groundwater samples, and fence line scans. Environmental regulators have also done independent radiological testing in some locations, such as hand scans, collecting swipe samples, and analyzing duplicate soil samples in independent laboratories.
- We are aware of the deep concern that you and the community have about any potential impacts of the Shipyard on the health of the current and future residents and workers.

We share that concern. We want answers too.

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- For that reason, we have made Hunters Point a top priority. We have assembled a team of national experts from throughout EPA—in radiation, statistics, geology and other areas. We are working together to analyze carefully all the information about the Shipyard to make sure that the community is protected.

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CURRENT RESIDENTS AND WORKERS

- Our first concern is any potential exposure of the current residents and workers at the Shipyard, especially at Parcel A.
- Since 1989, EPA and the State have conducted oversight on investigation and cleanup work at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, including at Parcel A. Historically, most of Parcel A was used for residences, offices, cafeteria, and other non-industrial activities. For the limited contamination found from minor industrial activities, we have reviewed and commented on a series of testing and cleanup actions before approving that they were complete. For example, in 1994 and 1995 the Navy removed sediment from Parcel A along with all storm drain and sanitary sewer systems.
- For potential radiological contamination on Parcel A, both EPA and the state conducted ~~both in-person~~ onsite ?? testing and information review. For example, we reviewed and approved the Navy's 2004 Historical Radiological Assessment. That assessment found three buildings with a history of radiological involvement. The Navy tested all three buildings. Of those, my understanding is that Tetra Tech EC Inc. did not do any radiological work at Parcel A except at Building 322, which was demolished and removed in 2004. Following the removal of Building 322, an EPA health physicist conducted independent ~~hand~~ scans of the area using two types of scanners to confirm that the former building site was clean. In addition, around building 816, the California Department of Health Services independently collected and analyzed five soil samples. EPA conducted multiple site visits, including monitoring excavation of sandblast grit with uncertain radioactivity levels. All these actions occurred before we approved the transfer of Parcel A.

- To support meaningful community involvement, EPA participated in public meetings in 1995 about the Parcel A cleanup plan, in 1998 about removing Parcel A from the Superfund list, and many other public meetings.
- Even after Parcel A transferred, we continue to respond to specific concerns about exposure to its residents, especially since 2014. At those points, my technical team reviewed the site history, analyzed the available data, conducted site visits and interviews, and conferred with our State regulatory partners. We then distributed updated fact sheets for the public in 2016 and again in 2017 after we received additional specific concerns.
- Now, again, we have received new allegations about potential concerns on Parcel A. We have asked to speak to the individuals who have made these allegations through their attorney. When we receive more detailed information, we will evaluate it, consult with our regulatory partners and other stakeholders, and work together to recommend a course of action. We will share those results with the public as well.
- Meanwhile, because of community concerns at Parcel A, to better understand what transpired over 14 years ago, I've asked my staff to reconstruct the evaluation and decision making process that led to the EPA approval of transfer. This effort will discuss any form of contamination that was found there and the resolution of these findings. We will consult with our regulatory partners in that process, and we will distribute our findings to the public.

FUTURE RESIDENTS AND WORKERS OUTSIDE OF PARCEL A

- For other parts of the site, outside of Parcel A, we wrote to the Navy in 2016 to reiterate that no further transfers of property would occur until we could get to the bottom of our questions about Tetra Tech EC Inc. data.
- In Parcels B, G, and others, USEPA's review of data from Tetra Tech EC Inc. has found signs in most locations of potential falsification or data quality concerns, or both. We support the Navy's decision to do retesting in all locations where Tetra Tech EC Inc. has done radiological work.
- Because of our concerns, USEPA will not approve ~~parcel transfers~~any new development without comprehensive retesting. If retesting finds contamination, then the Navy must clean up the area until it is safe enough to allow future transfers.
- Together with my State regulatory partners, we commit to have our technical experts monitoring this rework every step of the way to ensure the safety of. ~~We feel that is the only way to ensure future residents and workers would be safe.~~
- In the mean time, again, the concerns we have about Tetra Tech EC Inc. on these other parcels would not impact the health of current residents in Parcel A or the surrounding community. The areas under question are enclosed under protective covers or inside locked buildings in secured parts of the site. A variety of contractors routinely collect radiological data from air monitors, groundwater, and fence-line scans. We believe that these and other protections, including dust controls, are protecting the community as our investigation and clean-up activities proceed.

URGENCY

- I understand that this community has had a cloud of uncertainty hanging over its head for far too long. What we all want is for the retesting to start as soon as possible. Only with retesting can we finally know the facts about the extent of any potential contamination and to begin cleanup, if needed, right away.
- However, we want that urgency to be balanced with the need for careful and transparent review of the workplan by both the community and the regulatory agencies to make sure we are moving forward responsibly and efficiently to protect public health.
- I continue to direct USEPA's resources to Hunters Point so our team of technical experts can focus our attention on your community. We are committed to working hard, together with the Navy, our State regulatory partners, and your departments, to develop plans that will ensure that Hunters Point Naval Shipyard is cleaned and safe for the community.

CONCLUSION

- I appreciate that this is not an easy time for the community and for you, its leaders. Our mission is to protect the community's health. We take these issues very seriously.
- Thank you for your invitation, and I look forward to questions.